



RCC is Once Again a Food Desert

By Catherine Phelps
Writing Center Staff

On Monday, March 24, the cafeteria at Roxbury Community College closed for business. With no advanced notice, the only location on campus offering hot food and drink had locked its doors. Students arriving early, trying to grab a coffee and muffin before class, were sent away empty-handed. Faculty nipping down stairs mid-day, hoping to find a chicken salad between classes, went hungry. Later that day, as working people arrived on campus for a quick bite to eat prior to their evening class, the disappointment went from surprise to anger.

According to second year student, Christian Sandoval-Repizo, "When I'm desperate for food, and haven't brought

anything from home, I count on going downstairs to get something. I would expect to have a cafeteria at a college; I consider it an essential service."

The College administration went into instant response mode. The next day, a college-wide email from Carrie Monestime, Registrar, announced the following: "Due to unexpected circumstances, Wilma's Café is no longer the food service provider for RCC. Madison Park Culinary Program will be the interim food service provider effective Wednesday, March 26, 2014." Meanwhile, RCC President Dr. Valerie Roberson met with the Student Government to explain some aspects of the situation. The cafeteria was indeed closed, but individuals were encouraged to suggest some form of replacement service. The administration would consider all recommendations, although proper vetting

procedures would need to be followed, and might take some time. Several hours later on that same Tuesday, an email was sent to faculty and staff, from Angela O'Neil: "We have been informed by staff at Madison Park that they are not equipped to handle the volume/demand RCC requires. Therefore we will not have food service until further notice. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience this may have caused."

On Thursday, Cecile Regner, Interim VP for Academic and Student Affairs, informed the Faculty Assembly that the sudden, unanticipated closing of the food service was due to a lack of proper contract. Interim ideas being considered included vending machines with healthy

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Students Protest in Venezuela

By Maria I. Payano
Staff Reporter

In February, a group of Venezuela's college students began a peaceful protest asking the government for improved security measures to curb rampant crime on campus. Allegedly, a female student was a victim of attempted rape. This incident caused a wave of local protests with students and civic groups taking to the streets to demand justice. Many students were detained. Students in other universities joined the protests in solidarity. The protests spread nationwide.

Venezuela has the fifth highest murder rate in the world. The lack of security, the basic need for provisions like food, the government's failure to respond to the citizens' need, and lack of dialogue has led students to raise their voices in protest.



Source: nationalgeographic.com

Before these protests, Venezuela suffered from economic instability, huge windfalls in oil revenue, and unsustainable and ill-advised policies, such as deficit spending along with price and exchange-rate controls. The Chavez regime had grown certain that the Venezuelan people blindly accepted official

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RCC Students Have a Memorable Spring Break



By Judy Kahalas
Editor of The Gazette

RCC students, accompanied by Director of Student Life and Engagement Elizabeth Clark, school nurse Ruth Hines, and Professor Jacquolyn Payne Thompson of the Division of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, recently toured Washington DC during Spring Break 2014.

This trip was a first for the students

of Roxbury Community College who were able to attend. They were invited to visit the office of Senator Elizabeth Warren, the State Capital, and Howard University. They also toured the city and stayed at the Hotel Harrington.

Prof. Thompson, who planned the trip and chaired the committee, secured donations from friends as well as community organizations. The committee looks forward to planning a second trip, this time including a tour of the White House.

The Marathon That Made Boston Strong



Photo illustration by Justin Metz

By Kizzy Aponte
Staff Reporter

On April 15, 2013, one mile from the finish line, Matt Carpenter, Courtney O'Connor, and Michael Rundlett, three members of Elite Hydration Team for the Boston Athletic Association (BAA), recount their experiences after the explosion on Marathon Monday.

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Urban Studies Students Present at RCC and MIT

By Prof. Randall Foote

Students in RCC's Urban Studies class – "Whose City Is This?" – presented the results of their research on critical issues in Roxbury at RCC and at MIT on Friday, May 2nd. This course in Community Development and Organizing has been taught by Professor Foote, with guest lectures and mentoring by MIT Faculty and International Fellows, and it has offered students the opportunity to attend seminars at MIT.

In addition to RCC students and faculty, guests for the presentation at RCC included staff from the offices of City Councillors Michelle Wu, Michael Flaherty and Tito Jackson, State Representative Liz Malia, and the Mayor's office



Lloyd Bryan with SPURS Fellow Sandra Gutierrez

of Economic Development.

For their research project, students chose urban issues that they were most concerned about, researched data and conducted interviews throughout Rox-

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YOUR
Opinion DOES
Matter

The American Dream is Dead

By Renato Silva
Staff Reporter

When writing the Declaration of Independence, arguably one of the most important documents in American history, Thomas Jefferson made sure to include, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

To this day we continue to believe that these truths are self-evident, but is this foolish of us? For years we have been sold on the American Dream: the pretty three bedroom house, the dog, and the white picket fence, all of it attainable as long as you work hard enough; but is that realistic? The way the American economy is set up, with tax breaks for the rich and no incentive for the poor to succeed, can hard working Americans find that lost dream?

The wealth inequality in America is growing at an alarming rate. According to the federal government, the United States of America has climbed out of the Great Recession, and the economy is once again thriving. Why is it they claim that if the general public isn’t feeling the same way? The rich keep getting richer and as of right now the bottom 95% of American households combined have less financial net worth than the top 1%. It’s astounding.

The fact that people are okay with 1 out of every 6 Americans going hungry every day while there’s enough money up top to feed the whole WORLD is absolutely preposterous. We claim to be the best country in the world but we can’t even feed all of our population. Our infrastructure is collapsing, our education is subpar, but still we are the land of opportunity? The issue with our nation is that while hard working people are getting foreclosed on, a select few are living the Jordan Belfort lifestyle.

Now what is the root of the wealth inequality issue? For starters: OUT-SOURCING. To undercut labor costs, many corporations choose instead to send jobs overseas. The benefits of cheap labor are way too good an opportunity for the plutocrats of the world to pass up. While outsourcing is not an illegal activity, it does anger a great num-

ber of people. When the people have no more solutions to turn to on their own, they hope that the government will find a solution. In many past campaigns, you hear the same rhetoric: the left wingers want the jobs that are being outsourced to stay in the United States of America. These are usually low-skilled jobs that require little to no education. The right wingers, on the other hand, call for anti-immigration laws because they believe that insourcing attracts too many immigrants and eventually they will take over these low skilled jobs.

Now, why do Americans choose not to fill these low skilled positions? Well, that’s where propaganda creeps in. Americans have come to believe, mainly due to a consumer driven media, that we are above such things. We are the consumers; why should we have to make these items and enjoy them too? It is that kind of mentality that sinks the economy and continuously raises the gap between the 1% and the rest of the country (the author of this article does not claim that all Americans think that way, but enough people do and that is where the issues lie).

The one power that is left to the people is the ability to choose who leads this nation forward. The only way the people of this country can change this broken system is through electing the right people into office. To kill this plutonomy, we must vote. Because while the rich may have money and in turn influence, the American people still have the same equal voting rights; the issue with this is that races are bought nowadays. The right thing to do would be to put a limit on how much a campaign can receive in donations/spending. Let people do their own research and not fall for bogus sentimental ads that only elect the candidates working with the 1%. It is time to wake up. The American dream is dead.

Soon enough our economy will collapse again, and when it does it won’t stop there. There will be protests, war, famine, the end of the technology wave, etc... If it sounds like a biblical disaster, it’s because it will be. For too long we have let our future hang in the balance to chase some dream that does not exist. Wake up America! We have the spirit and the will to change and fix this system. Will we?

Funeral or Speak?

By Kiana Hall
Staff Reporter

Speak up or prepare a funeral. Those are the options. There are a number of households that contain women who decide not to speak up about domestic violence and abuse. These households have a much higher rate of abuse leading to murder than other households. All across the nation, every nine seconds a woman is assaulted or beaten. More than half of the female victims being abused are in a home with a child under the age of twelve witnessing the act. Every day there are more than three women murdered by their husbands or boyfriends, and the children witnessing the abuse are at a high rate for getting abused or getting involved in some type of abuse when they get older.

Between 55-95 percent of the women abused never contact any resources, organizations, or even the police to seek help. This decision is one that we as women pay for because domestic abuse is the leading cause of injury in women, more than car accidents, rapes and mugging combined. Annually, 5.3 billion are abused, and 1,200 result in death within just the US alone. Ninety-two percent of women stated that reducing domestic violence and sexual assault is their top concern.

There are many different kinds of domestic abuse, not only physical but also emotional abuse, sexual abuse and economic abuse. Tactics that go along with abuse are dominance, humiliation, isolation, threats, and blame; these are also symptoms. Physical abuse often starts with one of these tactics and with another form of abuse. Being in a toxic environment for the first 10 years of my life has scarred me in ways I never thought would. Not only do the haunting cries for help, bloody noses, and miniature earthquakes from fighting replay in my mind, but I learned that since I was brought up to violence I became violent.

In adolescence my relationships were filled with anger and violence towards my partner if I felt disrespected, and even now in my early adult life, as I am trying hard to contain the anger and vivid flashbacks of hell’s mansion, I still have a hard time not being physical when I am badly abused by words. Domestic abuse is like a cycle of insanity. Once you have been brought on the train, it’s hard to regain a balance again and let go of what triggers you to be violent. You will find yourself wanting and trying to stay away, and avoid all things that make you go “BOOM”; however, I personally know it’s easier said than done.

I found myself being assaulted in

ways unconceivable by the hands of a boy whose mind was completely taken over by drugs. An innocent bystander bravely called the police. I would have responded to his violence with my own violence and probably been taken to jail right along with him. That incident brought on the severe importance of resources and how preliminary help such as counseling, anger or stress management, and maybe even AA meetings can be the line of sanity vs. insanity, and even more so life vs. death.

As women, we have to ask ourselves,” Is an innocent child, who probably has witnessed way too much, be worth burying? Or even worse, would we rather our family members have to bury us because we did not seek help when it was all around us?” The number of resources are spontaneously growing as it has to with the domestic violence rate increasing. There’s an ample amount of 24 Hour hotlines, non-profit organizations, community health programs, and programs that are not affiliated with the government and will service you as best as they can, keeping your identity completely anonymous. I know this subject has been talked about over and over, and women have heard the same lectures a number of times. All women need to know that it’s always safer, smarter, and healthier to SPEAK UP.

“Noah” is a No-No

By Anita Lanzo
Staff Reporter

The Paramount film, Noah, which cost 12 million dollars to produce, preys on curious Christians, which left some disappointed. The story Noah derives from the book of Genesis. In the book



it explains that God regrets ever making mankind and wants to destroy every living creature with a flood. But He finds good in one person, who is Noah. God tells Noah to build an ark to save him and his family. He also asks Noah to gather two pairs of each animal.

To make this story interesting (and long), Paramount decides to hire Darren Aronofsky to write the story and also direct it as well. It seems that Darren Aronofsky had to make things up in order to make the movie long. The

film was unbiblical from the beginning until the end. In the film, Noah’s grandfather Methuselah, who was played by Anthony Hopkins, is a person who has magical powers and a fetish for berries. Later in the movie, he heals Sham’s wife who is unable to bear children. The Ark is no way built by Noah, who is played

by Russell Crowe, but by the fallen angels who are stuck in rocks, and they are called the Watchers. Noah’s son Ham seems to be rebellious throughout the entire movie. Ham wanted a wife to bring on the boat with him, but his father refused. Noah becomes a cold person who has no regard for any human life.

Since there always has to be good and evil in a movie, Aronofsky creates Tubal-Cain, who is played by Ray Winstone. Tubal-Cain tries to hack Noah’s ark with his army, but his plan was foiled by the rock monsters.

None of these things happen in the Bible, causing the movie to be a disappointment for some. Random rock monsters made the movie seem like a

goofy-sci, almost like a Bible version of Transformers.

The graphics of this film are mediocre. The animals are a bit cartoonish and the flood is overly dramatic. The trailer did a good job making it seem that the graphics would blow people’s mind. The characters in the movie looked dirty and untamed. And there were parts of the movie that did not make any sense. (For example, when Sham and his wife decided to leave the boat.)

In conclusion, the movie was over-dramatic with too much dialogue and fighting. I forced myself to stay awake almost towards the end. The movie was not entirely bad, but it is not a five star movie. When it comes to biblical stories, Paramount should stick to the story and not make it so cheesy.

Do Guns Equal More Safety or Less Freedom?

By Martika Marie Cox
Staff Reporter

What are the primary responsibilities of a state institution, specifically an educational institution? If an institution has a mission statement are they required to uphold it in its entirety? Roxbury Community College’s mission statement was called into question by several faculty members and students at the college when it was discovered that armed security guards might be brought onto the college campus. Faculty and students alike were alarmed by this news, and many found the idea of bringing guns onto campus unsettling. The success of a college, in particular, a community college, is largely based on creating an

enriching environment where students are able to attain higher levels of education. College campuses should facilitate learning environments where this type of attainment is possible, and a part of that should include making students not only feel safe, but also allowing them to have a voice in the matter of their education. Placing armed security onto a campus that has had a low level of violent incidents in the past several years undermines the safety, comfort and in some cases the sense of self and identity of many of the students. Allowing armed security onto RCC’s campus is not in line with the college’s mission statement, and therefore should be reconsidered.

In psychology there are two pieces

of evidence used to support the nurture theory, regarding the development of intelligence, in the nature vs. nurture debate. The “cumulative deprivation hypotheses/enrichment” theory states that, “Children who are raised in sub-standard circumstances should experience a gradual decline in IQ as they grow older (Weiten 354). The enrichment part of the theory suggests that, “conversely, children who are removed from a deprived environment and placed in circumstances more conducive to learning should benefit from their environmental enrichment. Their IQ scores should gradually increase (Weiten 355). Furthermore, when a home environment is chaotic and unstructured intellectual development can be stifled.

Homes in which there is structure and some sort of routine, and in which parents are “warm and affectionate, and provide tangible assistance with school-work” are the kinds of home environments that encourage academic success (Weiten). While these theories mainly discuss the intellectual enrichment of children and the impact of the home environment on IQ, the same applies to all learning environments. Students learn better in environments that feel safe, structured, and warm and inviting. Many of the students at RCC come from urban environments and countries where they have already experienced violence first hand. Some of the students

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The Gateway Gazette is the official publication of the student body of Roxbury Community College. Submissions from the college community are welcome. All submissions are subject to editing. Opinions stated within the paper are not necessarily endorsed by the newspaper staff.

Editors:
Prof. Judy Kahalas
Prof. Quentin James

Layout:
Phuong Tang

Staff Reporters:
Kizzy Aponte
Martika Marie Cox
Kiana Hall
Anita Lanzo
Eunice Offre
Maria I. Payano
Renato Silva

Haiti has Felt Little Relief

By Eunice Offre
Staff Reporter

Does foreign aid really benefit Haiti when it's given? For centuries, the U.N. and United States have intervened for the good of Haiti, hoping that one day Haiti will somehow have its moment of triumph. However, history shows they do the opposite despite what the media and government officials announce. So, why isn't Haiti getting better with all the help they've been given all these years?

One thing the U.S fails to see when it comes to helping Haiti succeed is that the government in Haiti doesn't have much structure and stability because of so many interventions on the part of the U.S. in the past. With the aid that Haiti has been given, most of the money has been taken by corrupt dictators when they were forced out of the government. Nowadays, Haiti can't seem to even touch the money that donors have given after the deadly earthquake in 2010.

In Jonathan Katz's book, *The Big Truck That Went By: How the World Came to Save Haiti and Left Behind a Disaster*, he writes that more than 5.2 billion dollars was donated to the relief effort in Haiti. Due to a history of mismanagement on aid money not being properly spent, donors deposited money in a bank where Haitian officials couldn't touch it without the permission of the board that oversees the funds.

Now that government officials are trying to rebuild Haiti, they are set back by restrictions. Eventually Haiti did receive some of this money, but it went to the big businesses that the government owed and a small part went untraced. Haiti didn't have control of the money and how it would be distributed. Although organizations like UNICEF and the Red Cross tried their best to



Source: www.fletcherforum.org

use their funds wisely, there were also restrictions to their spending for Haitian victims that were in need. Rebuilding hospitals, resupplying materials for hospitals, fixing schools and homes, and investing in sewers and sanitation needs were not a priority.

Money is not the only need that cripples Haiti's stability. After the earthquake in January, a few months followed in October when an outbreak of Cholera spread from Saint-Marc. Experts quickly related it to the aftermath of the earthquake and the unsanitary nature of the country. Haiti hasn't ever had any problems in the past of having an epidemic of Cholera, even with the lack of living space arrangements in camp zones and few options of clean water. It's been three years since Cholera hit the island, and according to NPR it killed more than 8,500 people and infected hundreds of thousands.

The NPR article, "Why Cholera Persists in Haiti despite an Abundance of Aid," mentioned Katz. Sanitation was part of the problem why cholera spread so fast, with millions of dollars donated

to Haiti and outsiders trying to have short term solutions instead of finding permanent solutions to clean water and proper sanitation methods. Portapotties were one example of short term solutions that were used in camps to decrease the spread of diseases.

In Haiti, there aren't sewers, so instead they have "bayakous" who are independent and somewhat secretive laborers who clean the cesspools under people's latrines. Even latrines are hard to access because they are indeed expensive, so another method is dumping waste into a plastic bag and throwing it out somewhere. The sanitation problem in Haiti was a problem before, but according to NPR, evidence suggests the cholera in Haiti came from a United Nations base where Nepalese peacekeeping troops were living. The cholera strain in Haiti exactly matches one found at the UN base, and the sanitation on the base wasn't sufficient to prevent contamination of the adjacent river.

Aid overall was to help bring a community peace when disaster struck; Haiti hasn't got the peace yet.

Haitian Event for Students Held at UMB

By Anita Lanzo
Staff Reporter

The Haitian American Society wanted to share its culture with UMass students and outsiders in an event called T'chaka Night. This event took place on March 1 at UMass Boston. The event was sponsored by their Finance Department.

The second floor was flooded with UMass students and outside visitors. People were stylishly dressed for the event. There were vocal performances from several artists, as well as poetry and skits. The music was provided by

DJ Smoov, and the event was hosted by Haitian V. During intermission, free food was served to hungry guests: rice, beans, fruit and also meat patties. The night continued with a dance competition and a gift card to Dave and Busters was raffled.

The night ended with each member from the Haitian American Society thanking guests for coming and also thanking the Finance Department.

Do Guns Equal More Safety...

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also come from homes and families that may not have been supportive of their educational goals. When guns are brought into a learning environment it sets a completely different tone within the environment. Students may feel as though they are in a jail or prison, rather than a college where they are free to express themselves both personally and academically. Students may also feel like they are being singled out because of their race, gender, or class and that their personal/individual rights are being encroached upon.

In *Rereading America*, Jean Anyon's essay "From Social Class and the Hidden Curriculum of Work" discusses class structure and the different types of learning environments available to certain members of particular classes. Anyon states that the differences in curriculum for students of certain classes results in the perpetuation of class division in society (178). Many of the students attending college at RCC come from working class families. Anyon discovered that students who attended working-class schools were taught with military style command in environments that operated on control, and com-

pliance (169). Students who attended working-class schools often ended up reaching the same level of educational and professional attainment as their parents. Working-class students were not encouraged to think for themselves or to deviate from the inorganic and uncreative lesson plans given to them (169). The presence of guns on campus create a military base like environment that distracts from the original mission statement of the college; it could result in students withdrawing because of safety concerns, concerns for their individual rights as students at RCC, and it could also result in future students choosing to attend another state college, or opting out of attending at all.

RCC's mission statement reads, "The College is therefore committed to helping our students enhance the quality of their lives and our communities" (<http://www.rcc.mass.edu/>). Recruiting armed security without allowing students and faculty to voice their opinion on the matter is a violation of their rights, as members of a college that was rendered to service a community already fraught with enough violence, and turmoil, and it creates a learning environment that is tense, controlled, and void of hope for positive change.

In place of hiring armed guards to

patrol RCC's campus more structures should be implemented to create a safe and healthy learning environment for the RCC community. RCC is less than a mile from one police station and a major police headquarters. Instead of bringing armed security onto the college campus, blue-light boxes (emergency call boxes) can be installed in several key locations points. Workshops can be administered where students are given campus safety tips, and are encouraged to refrain from getting involved in violent or dangerous activities on campus. Programs such as these would be positive preliminary steps to reducing the chance of violent or dangerous activity on campus and should be considered before extreme measures such as voluntarily bringing weapons onto school grounds are taken. The values outlined in Roxbury Community College's mission statement insist on the reconsideration of bringing armed security onto campus, and its very validity and strength depend on it.

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ROXBURY REP WINS HONORS

Two members of the Roxbury Repertory Theater won honors for their outstanding performances in the recent production of "A Soldier's Play." The Independent Reviewers of New England 2014 Award (IRNE) bestowed the award in two categories:

- Best Ensemble Performance (Small/Fringe) A SOLDIER'S PLAY (Roxbury Repertory Theater)
- Best Actor in A Play (Small/Fringe) Daver Morrison A SOLDIERS PLAY (Roxbury Repertory Theatre)

Our very own Emerald Johnson, daughter of Shelly Payne Johnson, is part of the RRT Ensemble.



GATEWAY GAZETTE

A publication of staff and students at
Roxbury Community College
1234 Columbus Avenue, Roxbury Crossing, Massachusetts 02120



Staff and students are invited to send letters to the editor, news tips, ideas for articles and photos and other information for the Gazette to writingcenter@roxbury.edu. All submissions are subject to editing and run on a space available basis. The opinions expressed in these pages do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.

Faculty advisor:
Judith Kahalas, Coordinator of The Writing Center



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RCC is Once Again ...

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options and food trucks. Anyone with knowledge of alternate vendors were encouraged to let her know.

English Professor David Updike’s reaction to the sudden closure was scathing. “It’s breathtaking. Is Roxbury the only community college in the United States that doesn’t have a cafeteria?”

It’s unbelievable,” was the reaction of Judy Kahalas, Coordinator of the Writing Center. “How can people think if they haven’t eaten? Our students are very busy, rushing from home to job, school to home, with little enough time on campus to do anything but attend classes and get their homework done or meet with a tutor. How can they be expected to operate with no food service?”

Kahalas pointed out that an earlier article in The Gateway Gazette also addressed the same issue, as there has been a history of controversy and frustration surrounding RCC’s campus cafeteria. There used to be a well-run and well-at-

tended spot on the second floor of the Student Building. With a good selection of healthy and tasty food to choose from, the cafeteria offered students and faculty a spacious and sunny environment in which to enjoy a meal together. “We were a community. We could gather,” Updike remembered. “Following its closure, we had several years of only a Dunkin’ Donuts, and there was one long line each morning. No one was happy with that.”

Eventually, the cafeteria on the fourth floor reopened, but in 2010, when the Census Office offered RCC some badly-needed money for the use of the large space, the facility was rented out to them - this time, with the agreement of the faculty – on the understanding that the lease was temporary. Since 2010, the campus’ most recent provision, Wilma’s Café - a small, walk-through cafeteria on the ground floor of the Academic Building - was installed and opened for business. The former second floor cafeteria, now vacated by the Census Bureau, remains empty.

At the time of this writing, one week after the most recent closure, there is a

new vending machine with sandwiches outside of the student lounge; another vending machine with hot beverages is promised. In addition, a food service canteen truck has started showing up for half an hour each weekday, serving both hot and cold food in the parking lot. The administration acknowledges that these are not ideal solutions, and promises a more permanent one.

According to Candace Farquharson, “A lot of students are going to the bookstore and the vending machines now. They don’t have time to do anything else. But it’s expensive. I bring a box of juice and chips from home. That’s it for the day.”

Rashida Jenkins, President of the RCC Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society, wanted to share her outrage. “One of the basic things that we’re taught as children is that food is fuel for the body and mind. How RCC expects us to turn out accomplished students, many of whom have put in long hours here on campus, without any serious option to nourish themselves, is beyond me – and a travesty at best.”

Urban Studies Students ...

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bury. Topics presented included:

- Housing affordability and gentrification (Mallory Harris, Charnel Luc, Florice Luc)
- Section 8 housing (Christian Sandoval)
- Healthy and affordable food options in Roxbury/Dorchester. (Lloyd Bryan and Alain Eugene)
- Improving the quality of education in minority communities in Boston. (Joseph Chevalier and Shelby Lindsay-Vaughan)
- Organizing to raise voter registration and turnout as a means to increase political power in Roxbury (Waller Finnegan)
- Addressing youth violence through engaging youth and connecting them to after-school and summer opportunities for work and volunteering. (Tania Ortiz)
- Challenge of unsafe streets in the Egleston area: connecting the residents to available programs to address substance abuse, mental illness and homelessness, in alliance with the neighboring community of Jamaica Plain. (Amy Curran)

The government officials who were present, as well as others who were unable to attend, have requested written versions of these final projects. They noted that several of the points made in the presentations should be considered as policy recommendations. Over the past year, RCC students in this program have developed strong relationships with the International Fellows at MIT, who invited our students to present



RCC students at MIT, with Professor Foote and Ofer Lerner, SPURS Fellow who worked with them throughout the course



Waller Finnegan presenting at MIT



Tania Ortiz presenting at MIT

their research at MIT Friday afternoon. In addition to their research presentations, the students and MIT Fellows spoke very movingly about the mutual value of the collaboration.

The RCC students’ presentations were very well received by the MIT Fellows, graduate students and faculty, who stated that their presentations were on a level with those of MIT urban planning graduate students, especially because they combined quality academic research with the emotional strength that comes from addressing issues that are an integral part of students’ lives.

The RCC / MIT collaboration has been ongoing and steadily growing for the past three years, and it will continue again next year. It has included guest lectures at RCC, seminars at MIT, and paid research internships for RCC students. At RCC, the program is co-ordinated by Dean Alicea, working with Professors Latif and Foote. The program will be open again next year to interested RCC students, and the gateway courses are Professor Foote’s Political Science course (SSI 118) and Professor Latif’s Economics courses. Interested students should contact Dean Alicea or Professors Latif and Foote.

Students Protest ...

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policy, boosting its self-perception as inevitable and permanent.

Citizens should demand better security, and they should not be repressing their opinions about the government performance. The Venezuelan government is abusing their power and popularity to indoctrinate them.

This issue affects the success of higher education in Venezuela. The student protest shows the government that staying the course is unacceptable and the students desire to end this self-righteousness. They have reminded the government that sectarianism in Venezuela is no longer acceptable in a country. Half of the Venezuelan population has major objections to government policy, and government wants them to pay the

price for ignoring alternative views.

This situation also shows how far the regime’s repression can affect the country’s development. Maduro has deployed disproportionate intimidating force against the students, relying on official as well as unofficial military groups, intimidating protesters and spectators. How aware can we be about the kind of legacy that Venezuelan leaders are creating by repressing the new generation’s voice?

While some countries, like Cuba and Argentina, support the Venezuelan government, others do not seem to be interested in doing something because they might not want to be accused of destabilizing it. However, other countries disapprove of the government’s reaction and call to all parties for a constructive dialogue. A group of independent United Nations human rights experts

asked the Venezuelan government for clarification of allegations of arbitrary detention and excessive use of force and violence against protesters, journalists and media workers during recent protests.

They are not so naive as to believe that one of the most entrenched regimes in Latin America would fall simply because of student demonstrations. Yet, they have delivered a message to the government that the formal opposition has failed to convey, and the protesters have revealed to the world the true nature of Venezuela’s regime. This situation as college student should be for more of our Sympathy toward Venezuela’s students. The respect for fundamental rights, constructive and respectful dialogue, and tolerance is the way for this current violent crisis to be solved.

Lay Down Your Arms: A Lesson We all Have Learned

By Judy Kahalas
Editor

The rules of the street apply in the outer circumference of Roxbury Community College. Gang warfare, turf oriented, has prevailed for over 50 years. Many murders have occurred, some family oriented. Unfortunately, innocent lives like Tiffany Moore and Louis Brown, were sacrificed to these gang wars. Family feuds have also prevailed.

Nevertheless, there has never been a single, egregious act of violence on our campus. In its 40-year history, not one murder . . . There is a code on the streets: RCC is a safe haven. The sons, daughters, parents, and other relatives use this college as a resource, a way to escape the realities of the streets. Why, then, was the decision to bring armed security to campus even considered?

The life of experience colors the world we see; Reid Wilson, in “The Washington Post,” stated that “The city of Chicago registered more homicides than any city in the nation in 2012, surpassing even New York — despite the fact that the Second City has only one third as many residents as the Big Apple.” We recognize the perspective of

new administrators from Chicago and a State Police officer. We accept the recent examples of violence on campuses across the nation.

To introduce gun-toting officers to a student body that has seen more violence than most is insensitive, alienating, and inconsiderate. Many have lost siblings and other close family members to the street; others have witnessed combat and suffered post-traumatic stress. Still others have seen civil war in their native country and come to the US for refuge from violence.

In a meeting with students, faculty and staff during the week of April 14, Dr. Valerie Roberson, the new President of the College, made it clear: there will be no armed security personnel on this campus, laying to rest arguments raised by faculty, students and staff. Nevertheless, an outcry was heard across campus when a student discovered an advertisement posted on the College’s website for a person licensed to carry firearms,

Every stakeholder, whether paying or being paid, deserves honesty and inclusion in decision-making if we are truly bound to our core values. Let the College uphold these values and move forward.

The Marathon...

« continued from page 1

The team members agree that everything that day had gone off without a hitch. Although the elite runners had already passed, Courtney, Matthew and Michael decided to stay to watch the rest of the runners and look for friends and family members who were running that day.

Courtney recalls cheering on runners as they passed through the Fenway area. She figured she had missed a friend that she was looking for and decided to walk to the finish line to congratulate her. Courtney hadn’t gotten very far when “all of the police cars and emergency vehicles raced by.” Courtney continued on but it wasn’t before long that people began running up to her. “No one seemed to know what was going on,” she said, “so I thought it would be best to get to the river and ended up walking home.” Courtney concludes, “Since cell phone communication was difficult, I really didn’t know what had happened until I got home.” Courtney was very close with Richard Martin and his family. Richard Martin was an eight-year old boy who was one of three people killed in the explosion.

Matt Carpenter describes with great intensity his harrowing experience. “It wasn’t said verbally, but you could feel the presence of the government: martial law. Police were controlling the streets with machine guns; it resembled nothing of a marathon having taken place.” Matthew remembers calling the team together to tell them what had happened from what little he knew and then sent them home. “Some members of our group wanted to pray so we formed a circle and prayed for the victims.” Michael and Matthew were faced with the daunting task of getting from Beacon Street through the epicenter of a city panicked, a city on lockdown. It was a matter of time before they were even being able to get blocks from Beacon Street and over to the Fairmont Hotel where they were meeting with other members of the BAA.

When Matt and Michael arrived at the Fairmont, there were what appeared to be close to fifty ambulances waiting to take people to hospitals lined up on Clarendon Street, and the city was still in disarray. Although able to text, Matt and Michael’s cell phones were of little use. There were no incoming or outgoing calls, and it seemed that the towers had been shut down. This is where they felt the bombs’ impact most. Fear and chaos filled the streets of Boston. Michael describes how “everyone around us was in shock; their faces emotion ridden. It was horrible; it felt as if some had dropped a bomb on us.” Upon seeing the news, the magnitude of what had just taken place began to settle in. He said that days later “we were grateful that we had survived; this was really an historic event.” Michael continues, “It hit so close to home” because his seventy-seven year old aunt lives in Watertown one block away from where they shot Tamerlan Tsarnaev. She called Michael, understandably panicked, telling him that police in armored vehicles were checking her house. He assured her that this was a good thing and to stay calm. “The irony is that I have a sailboat tarp; it’s stored in my aunt’s backyard. It very easily could have been mine; Boston is so small.”

As a runner, Michael can easily identify with all the runners, the anger of hurting innocent people, especially at the end of such an amazing feat. Michael expresses his sentiment. “The marathon is almost a sacred event for a runner; it’s a celebration of athleticism.” Matt’s final thoughts are that he loves the Boston Marathon. “It is my city’s annual day in the spotlight of the world of sports, possibly my favorite day of the year. It showed me that one day, a day that broke our hearts, our city came together in the eyes of the running world...the sports world. They saw Boston come together. It is very cool to be a part of.” Matt, Coordinator for the Elite Hydration team, will be returning for his twenty-ninth marathon alongside Courtney and Michael; all three are looking forward to resuming their duties on the hydration team for this year’s Marathon on Monday, April 21, 2014.



Source: <http://guardianlv.com>

Is Nigeria Heading Towards Religious War?

By **Professor Everest Onuoha**
Special to The Gazette

Last week, hundreds of school children were kidnapped and held as sex slaves by a notorious Muslim extremists group known as Boko Haram. These school children are all girls from Christian families living in Northern parts of Nigeria. The kidnapping is only one of the series of recent assaults on Christian families. In February this year hundreds of Christians were killed and thousands forced to flee from their homes by Muslim terrorists, who want to create an Islamic state in Nigeria, Africa's biggest oil producer and most populous nation of more than 160 millions made up of equal number of Muslims and Christians. Islamic militants invaded villages that are predominantly inhabited by Christians; sporadic shootings and attacks in several Christian communities prompted an exodus of hundreds of panic-stricken Christian residents. Christians living in northern Nigeria has become favorite targets of Islamic terrorist aggression. In their campaign to establish Islamic law known as the Sharia, they use terror and violence to drive Christians out of northern Nigeria. Islamic insurgency and blood-letting on Christian villages and places of worship which began in October 2001, and it continues to escalate to astronomical proportions. The vortex of violence, especially the kidnapping of children has given grave concern to both Christians and non-Christians throughout the world. Many Christians in northern parts of the country are inflamed by the

lack of protection they have received from both the federal and local governments. The situation is even more worrisome because of stories that unusual large number of Christian residents own weapons, and if the insurgency is not quelled, soon armed retaliations may become inevitable.

Religious cleansing and the most recent kidnapping of innocent school children have not only sent shock waves throughout the world but have further eroded the faltering Nigerian reputation as an African nation with democratic inclinations and an economic strength lacking elsewhere on the region. Nigeria is rich in oil and minerals and has one of Africa's most skilled and educated workforces. However, it also has a reputation of the African continent's most egregious manifestation of economic mismanagement and insidious corruption.

Islamic extremism began in 2001 and was intensified with the ascendancy of President Good Luck Jonathan in 2010, and the wide spread notion that southerners have taken control of the reins of government, replacing the old northern military oligarchs who ruled the country until 1999. After over 40 years of independence in 1960 from Great Britain, Nigeria continues to show malignant signs of ethnic disharmony and lack of socio-political cohesion. Defusing the present tension is difficult for Jonathan, a Christian southerner who is loath to offend northern Muslim sensibilities after being accused of marginalizing the northerners that have dominated politics for most part since independence. Jonathan's ascension to the presidency

raises more questions than it answers about what will happen to this vast and once-thriving nation of over 160 million. Fundamental political reforms and direct forceful action to eradicate Islamic terrorist insurgency and their enclaves seem unlikely under his administration. The tragic results of this religious-political debacle will be unending religious war, pervasive famine and a refugee crisis unprecedented in the region.

Since 2001 Christians have been under brutal attack from Muslims, while Jonathan's government has expressed only perfunctory concern over the incessant Islamic aggression. His weakness opens a path for diplomacy and intervention. The United States and the rest of the international community must exercise strength to assist Nigeria in eradicating this lurch into darkness of Africa's giant, because if Nigeria is encapsulated by Islamic extremists, all Africa will be in danger. And unless Mr. Jonathan takes courageous steps by using superior military force to bring the hundreds of kidnapped children home to their families, end religious uprisings, seek the help of the international community, dismantle Boko Haram terrorist activities and institute religious freedom, Nigeria may collapse into the abyss of a religious crusade, social convulsion and violent revolution.

Everest Onuoha, Professor and Chair, English/ Humanities Dept. Roxbury Community College

The Gazette welcomes responses from students, faculty and staff. We reserve the right to edit all submissions.

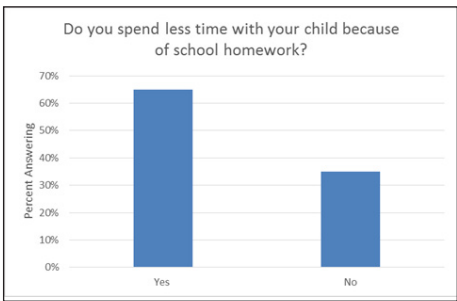
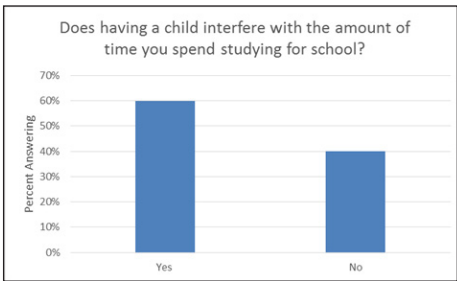
Being a Parent Attending RCC

By **Guillermo Diaz**
Special to The Gazette

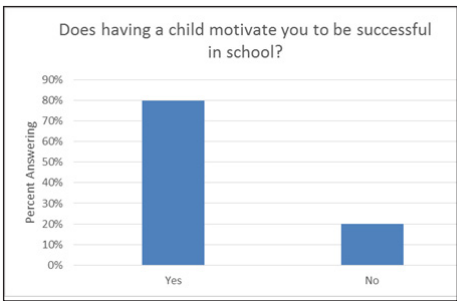
On Thursday April 24, 2014, around 3:30 in the afternoon, a group of four students that are in a statistics class at Roxbury Community College thought about how much harder it was for students who had children to be successful in getting a degree. The survey topic was about being a college parent and whether or not it makes things harder when attending school. It took place in Building 3's 1st floor and they asked random students as they walked in if they had a moment to take a brief "2 minute" survey. The survey was as random as possible by attempting to ask every third person, but due to the fact that not all students had children and other students who did have children were running late to their afternoon classes, the task was a difficult one. The group conducted the survey honestly in order to get a conclusion to their research. This matter is very important to RCC students because a lot of students who attend school are older mature students who have children. To most "college parents," attending RCC is important to being successful in everyday life because they want to achieve a high education level in order to get higher-paying jobs to be able to support their children.

I know (attending night courses at Roxbury Community College and having a full time job that requires me to work in the morning) that students who attend night courses - both older and younger - also work full time due to the responsibility of supporting their child. The data that was collected from college parents speaks for itself. Having a child interferes with a student's amount of time spent studying for school. In addition, students who have children spend less time with their child because of school homework. The responsibility of having a child takes time away from parents when they are not in school because having a child is like a "full-time" job. So once parents are home any homework and studying for classes gets difficult to do.

I believe it's important that RCC and its professors understand how its "college parents" feel. Roxbury Community College needs to find ways to accommodate college parents better so that they are able to do well in school. I know that some support is given by having child day care like "Little Sprouts", having free tutoring for important school subjects such as writing, math and science and also having career fairs. Here is some data collected below:



More needs to be done by professors by being available to have time to meet with these students on a one-on-one level. School deans and advisors need to be more involved with college parents as some of them have been through the same struggles in their past. All in all, more of a collective college effort needs to be done in order for college parents to have an experience through school that is a successful one. The next graph shows how college parents want to achieve the goal of obtaining their associate's degree at Roxbury Community College so that they would be able to get higher-paying jobs to be able to support their children.



“Hurt people hurt people, whole people heal people.”

By **Tariq Nazyat**

Last Thursday in my Spanish 1 class conducted by Profesora Susan Kalt we had a guest. Our assignment for the class was to come up with a list of ten sentences written in Spanish so that we may interview our guest. I always enjoy fumbling through the Spanish language with the rest of my class. We laugh at each other's frustrations and celebrate each other's victories. On this occasion, I just knew in my heart with all the opportunity to butcher the Spanish language we would have a laugh. What I did not expect was the genuine presence of Maria Christina.

Maria Christina entered my Spanish 1 class as normal as anyone has before her. She was polite and spoke Spanish

slowly so that our brain could catch up to her words. We began to ask her the questions we prepared, and she answered them while correcting us when needed. Somehow the awkward sounding questions generated a conversation that turned into the narrative of her life. What was more impressive is that this narrative was done completely in Spanish.

Maria Christina llegó a los Estados Unidos cuando era niña. She left her country Chile due to the political unrest that resulted in the death and disappearance of anyone who dared to speak out. *Le gustaba la escuela.* She educated herself and began working with people who needed services not often provided at that time, *como inmigrantes sin representación y las personas con VIH/SIDA.* It was this work that

brought her here to Boston. She helped people prepare for the end in a hospice. Her mission was to help them through the legal jargon and services provided in order to maintain as much dignity as possible in what must have been a hard time. What she realized was that when people are about to leave this earth they need and want is a different kind of service. They want a closure and connection with family, they want peace. *Ella sabía que la gente necesitaba curación espiritual.* So she changed her life so in order to satisfy the needs of others.

I cannot bring you to a full understanding of her life through my writing; I am not that learned. I will tell you that when you meet a selfless person you feel guilty, because you have not done enough to ease the human con-

dition. I have resolved to do more for others. Our meeting ended with hugs and laughs. Not the laughs of the earlier fumbles I mentioned before, but the

laughs of a class that enjoyed a great experience.

Hurt people hurt people, Whole people heal people.



Tariq Nazyat with Maria Cristina

Annual Honors Assembly

After a lunch sponsored by the Office of Student Life and Engagement, the Scholarship and Honors Committee hosted The Annual Honors Assembly in the Student Center on Thursday, May 1. Chair John McColgan (STEM) invited Vice President of Academic Affairs Cecile Regner to the podium; she graciously welcomed students and their families.

All students who attained Deans' List or President's List status were honored along with this year's scholarship recipients. Interim State Representative Gloria Fox addressed the assembly and inspired all with her enthusiasm and commitment to this institution. Ms. Tariana V. Little, a graduate of the College and a candidate for a Ph.D. at UMass. Medical School, spoke about the need for minorities to achieve and to set goals. She also spoke about the Honors Program at RCC and how it ignited in her a desire to seek her Ph.D.

Certificates for all honorees will be held in the Math Clinic throughout the Summer 1 and 2.



International Multicultural Institute Celebration

Chaired by Gloria Castro, Director, Prof. Veronica McCormack and Prof. Susan Kalt (Language Department), The International Multicultural Institute/ International SEVIS Club hosted the International Celebration Day on April 17, 2014 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00p.m. in the Student Center. Activities included learning about different cultures, tasting food from different countries, viewing students modeling clothes from their native countries, seeing the artifacts from different countries, and meeting international students from all over the world.

Two talented musicians from Puerto Rico played the guitar and the flute; our very own Professor of Languages, Dr. Susan Kalt, played the guitar and sang for the crowd.



Honors Presentations

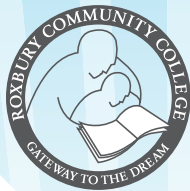
Under the leadership of Prof. Rhonda Gray, students in the Honors Program and those taking Honors courses or Honors components presented the culmination of their semester's research at the annual Honor's Presentation Day on Monday, May 5. The presenters touched on a wide range of topics:

- Walter Flores, The Pathogenicity of MRSA and its Impact on Humans, SCI 204, Prof. Sibaji Sarkar
- Shaoyu Chang, Tai Chi and Osteoarthritis, SCI 208, Prof. Stacey Olson
- Dimone Mannon, Recuérdame, LAN 211, Prof. Susan Kalt
- Martika Cox, School Desegregation: Do the Ends Justify the Means?, ENG 101 Honors, Prof. Judy Kahalas
- Sharon Olivo, Toni Morrison's The Bluest Eye: Sexual Abuse Within Familial Boundaries, ENG 102, Prof. Mikel Satcher
- April Andrew, Minstrelsy in the Mainstream, HUM 134-01, Prof. Rhonda Gray
- Mallory Harris, Minstrelsy in the Mainstream, HUM 134-E1, Prof. Rhonda Gray



The Year in Review





Roxbury
Community
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39th Annual
Commencement



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

Class
of 2014